

APP Testimony  
February 15, 2017

I am writing in support of Connecticut State Library services, especially Connecticard. Please don't cut funding!

As a school library media specialist in a small, public secondary school, I witness the value of reciprocal borrowing on a daily basis. Here at my school, seniors are required to complete a year-long senior project. These projects are diverse and often esoteric, and there is no way that we can purchase resources to support all of them. We can, however, borrow items from across the state. Sometimes, only one or two libraries have the information we are seeking, but always, they send it our way via borrowIT CT. Libraries are the best sharers in the world.

The Connecticut Library Consortium also makes it possible for us to borrow books for our many book clubs. In this day and age, what is more important than encouraging students to read and to think critically about the world around them? Book discussions foster open dialogue and nurture empathy. Without access to book sets, however, book clubs cannot function.

In the 2015-16 school year, our school realized a savings of \$8,212.00 on purchases made through CLS negotiated contracts and member benefits. For our small district, these dollar savings are HUGE, and the payback of information-literate and responsible graduates is simply immeasurable.

Please keep our Connecticard program. The dividends are too big to ignore.

Thank you.

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